

Tuesday, Scott and I traveled to Sarasota for a one-day getaway to interview Nancy Jacobson in her beautiful home on Longboat Key. Nancy shared stories of her extensive Jewish volunteer work and recounted treasured memories from travels to Israel, where she played a pivotal role as a leader with the Jewish Federation and the Weitzman Institute. She also spoke fondly of her years as a leader in the Women's Division, where she recounted stories of fundraisers with community leader Edythe Jackier.²¹

Neil Satovsky, a dedicated member of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, has had a lifelong love for learning Torah. His commitment to study continues as he works with Rabbi Shapiro of Yeshiva Beth Yehuda. Neil's long-standing dedication to Jewish Home and Aging Services, now Jewish Senior Life, is a testament to his deep-rooted devotion to supporting our Jewish community.

Deede Auster's passion for Jewish education began shortly after her marriage to her husband, Miles, and they have since been active members of Congregation Beth AHM. Deede is known for her many acts of loving-kindness, volunteering for a range of agencies, and more recently, dedicating her time volunteering at Sharon's Boutique at JSL.

Michael Serling, a proud member of Adat Shalom, is celebrating over 30 years of the Serling Institute, the special Jewish Studies Program at Michigan State University, which he founded. Beyond his work at MSU, Michael has taken a strong leadership role with the ADL, an organization whose mission has never been more crucial in today's world.

Barbara "Bunny" Kratchman has been a passionate advocate for Jewish culture since the early 1970s, starting with her work supporting the Jewish Book Fair. As a member of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Bunny's dedication to arts and culture is evident in her work with Kadima and Creative Expressions, which has left an indelible impact on the lives of so many.

Each of these remarkable honorees has led a life rich with service, dedication, and an enduring love for their Jewish identity. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to hear their stories and to share in the pride they hold for our community.